

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 00922 030357Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----031124 125325 /14  
R 021511Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9936

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 0922

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN, SW  
SUBJECT: WOODCOCK COMMISSION

REF: STOCKHOLM 0809

1. ON MARCH 2 THE DCM CALLED ON MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEIF LEIFLAND TO INFORM GOS OF FORTHCOMING WOODCOCK COMMISSION TRIP TO INDOCHINA AND TO ASK IF GOS HAD ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE OF HELP TO THE COMMISSION IN PREPARING FOR ITS MISSION. LEIFLAND SAID GOS, WHICH STRONGLY DESIRED TO SEE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SRV, WISHED THE COMMISSION WELL IN ITS IMPORTANT VENTURE AND WANTED TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE IT COULD.

2. LEIFLAND SAID PERHAPS BEST SERVICE GOS COULD RENDER AT PRESENT WAS TO TELL US PRECISELY WHAT SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH HAD STATED TO GOS ABOUT MIA QUESTION DURING HIS JANUARY VISIT TO STOCKHOLM. (SUMMARY REPORT OF TACH VISIT AND HIS VIEWS WAS GIVEN TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR FEBRUARY 17 AND TRANSMITTED REFTEL.) LEIFLAND GAVE DCM TRANSLATED EXCERPT OF OFFICIAL MEMCON COVERING THACH-LEIFLAND CONVERSATION OF JAN 26 AT MFA. LEIFLAND SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT WOODCOCK COMMISSION NOT REFER TO THIS INFORMATION DURING ITS TALKS WITH  
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VIETNAMESE, AND EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THIS BE STRESSED.  
TEXT OF EXCERPT FOLLOWS:

3. BEGIN TEXT: THACH CONFIRMED THAT FOR VIETNAM THERE IS A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO QUESTIONS OF MIA AND US ASSISTANCE. THE AMERICAN SIDE IS AGAINST SUCH A LINKAGE AND DEMANDS THAT THE MIA QUESTION BE SOLVED

BEFORE ANY OTHER PROBLEMS. ACCORDING TO THACH THE VIETNAMESE SIDE IS PREPARED TO FULFIL THE US WISH AS TO A FULL ACCOUNTING OF MIA UNDER THE CONDITION THAT US FULFILS THE VIETNAMESE WISH FOR ASSISTANCE.

AS TO THE UNITED NATIONS THACH CONFIRMED THAT VIETNAM WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER.

THACH TALKED THE WHOLE TIME IN CONCILIATORY TERMS ABOUT US. HE SAID I.E. THAT US OIL AND INDUSTRIAL FIRMS ARE WELCOME TO INVEST IN VIETNAM. HE SHOWED INTEREST IN WHAT MR. VANCE AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAVE SAID ON THE RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM, BUT ADDED CAUTIOUSLY THAT IT MUST BE PROVED IF THOSE STATEMENTS REALLY REPRESENT A CHANGE, ESPECIALLY AS FAR AS THE PRECONDITION ON MIA IS CONCERNED. END TEXT

4. LEIFLAND TOLD DCM SEVERAL FURTHER POINTS FROM HIS TALKS WITH THACH (THESE WERE GIVEN ON PERSONAL BASIS AND LEIFLAND SHOULD BE PROTECTED): (A) ON UN ADMISSION, THACH TOLD LEIFLAND THE SRV WAS NOT OVERLY EAGER FOR ADMISSION ON TWO GROUNDS: FIRST, SRV HAD NO FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AND IT WOULD COST A HUGE AMOUNT TO SET UP MISSION IN NEW YORK; SECOND, EACH TIME US VETOED SRV ADMISSION IT WAS VICTORY FOR SRV AND DEFEAT FOR US IN WORLD OPINION. (B) RE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER, THACH SAID VIETNAMESE REGARDED HIM AS VERY INTELLIGENT BUT NOT VERY HONEST. (C) THACH TOLD LEIFLAND SRV HAD CAPTURED INTACT ENTIRE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARCHIVES OF FORMER SAIGON GOVERNMENT AND WERE FINDING NIXON-THIEU EXCHANGES OF MESSAGES EXTREMELY INTERESTING READING.

5. COMMENT: LEIFLAND, WHO WAS SERVING IN THE US DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE VIETNAM WAR, HAS HAD EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH INDOCHINESE QUESTIONS; HE IS PLANNING A WEEK'S TRIP TO THE SRV IN THE FALL. IN THIS CHAT, WHICH WAS AT OUR INITIATIVE, LEIFLAND STRESSED DESIRE OF GOS TO BE OF ANY POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN HELPING WOODCOCK COMMISSION CARRY OUT ITS MISSION. SMITH

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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